

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

Parks & Recreation Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of November 1, 2012 **Held at the Recreation Department Office at 100 Riverview Center**

Present: Commissioners Gerry Winzer, Philip Pessina (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Tony Jaskot, Sheila Jones, and Rick Romano. Director Raymond Santostefano and Superintendent John Milardo, representing the Parks and Recreation Department.

In addition, there were six Middletown High School students in attendance for a requirement for a class they are taking.

Absent: Commissioner Todd Berch and Student Representative Dhruvi Patel.

Call: Chairman Winzer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the main room of the Recreation office, 100 Riverview Center, Suite 140, Middletown.

Public Hearing: There were no members of the public wishing to speak and Chairman Winzer closed the public hearing.

Director Santostefano explained to the Middletown High School students what a quorum is and where to check for a cancellation of a meeting. He explained that this Commission needed four members present and to have a quorum Sheila Jones was called to attend the meeting. If there are not enough members in attendance, there is no meeting.

Minutes: Chairman Winzer requested a motion to approve the minutes from October 4, 2012. Commissioner Romano made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Jaskot.

Vote: The Parks & Recreation Commission minutes of October 4, 2012 were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Director Santostefano reported that there was no new correspondence.

Department Reports: Director Santostefano reports that new flag pole lights were installed at Union Park and the lights were repaired on the cannon. Soccer is being played at Vinal, Crystal Lake, Smith Park, Snow School, Pat Kidney and one field at Country Club Road. The DEEP Commissioner and the Mayor went out in kayaks on the river and the Parks

division did a lot of clean up for that visit. The tunnel was hosed down and disinfected. The Xavier vs. Hand football game at Palmer Field had about 6,000 people and the Parks staff cleaned up for that and worked that night, everything went well. Vinal also had a football game at Palmer Field. The Fountain is closed for the season; lacrosse is playing at Lawrence School; Middletown High has been using the cross country course at Vet's Park, all of which were prepared by the Parks Division. Parks supported the Pumpkin Decorating program at Crystal Lake, setting up for the pony rides, bounce houses and canopies where they had 300 participants. Leaf collection is being done; flag football at Donovan Park; and the Robert Novak plaque is up and they are going to be in the Rose Bowl Parade. The docks were repaired and pushed out for the storm and will be taken out soon. Hurricane Sandy ruined the Ray Jacobs sign and that will be repaired and brush was cleaned up from the storm.

On the Recreation side the flyer is going out in the Water and Sewer bills and more advertising of the programs will be done. Inclusion programs have had basketball, movies, art contests, games, baking, adult social and the kids go to a program at MARC on Saturdays. The Lady Catherine Cruise was well attended with 168 participants. The Grandparent's support group has fourteen participants. There were 300 participants at the Pumpkin Decorating program with pony rides, petting zoo, bounce houses and more. The Mayor's office wants to make this a bigger event next year on the Green and Main Street. We've received more than \$1,750 in Christmas donations to date. There was a Higby Mountain hike, volleyball, badminton, swim lessons and more. The downtown trick-or-treating had 98 stops at local businesses with 540 children participating.

Old Business: **Hubbard Park Little League Irrigation.** Director Santostefano reported that with regard to the request to use LoCIP funds for the Hubbard Park Little League Irrigation repairs, Tina Gomes reported that LoCIP money can't be used for this project. We would have to transfer within our budget and if that shorts us for the year, we would have to go the Common Council for an appropriation from the General Fund.

Renovation of the Concession Stand at Palmer Field Superintendent Milardo reported that he spoke with the owner of the company that carries what we are looking for. He sent a diagram of the kitchen which John reviewed and made corrections on. The diagram will be re-worked and sent to Superintendent Milardo for another review. Chairman Winzer and Superintendent Milardo spoke to the MHS students and explained what we are proposing to do with the concession stand at Palmer. Commissioner Pessina spoke about who would be able to use it and how the City could use it for their events including Fourth of July, the Halloween event at the Green, the Regatta and more. Superintendent Milardo explained that American Legion may make a donation towards this project, as well as the Veterans. They would both have a say in who could use it and the Veteran's will always be running the concession stand. Superintendent Milardo told the Commission that he was planning to retire by the end of this calendar year, so he would like to get the information confirmed before then.

New Business: **New England Collegiate Baseball League** cancelled their presentation for tonight because of the storm, the presenter was traveling from Rhode Island. Superintendent Milardo explained that they want to play approximately 26 games at Palmer Field. Superintendent Milardo explained the usage of the fields at this point and that we don't have that many days available for a new organization to play at Palmer. He thought that we might be able to accommodate 6 games. Director Santostefano said that the organization is sending the Commission a packet to review and he would put it on the December agenda for discussion.

Miscellaneous: Director Santostefano indicated that there was another item that was being requested to be heard tonight. The Director contacted the Mayor's office about adding this under Miscellaneous. It was decided that Geen Thazhampallath would attend to explain the signage that he wants installed on Veteran's Memorial Green. This item will be added to the agenda for the December 1st meeting.

Commissioner Pessina asked about the soccer fields on Long Hill Road. He was concerned that they would not be ready to be played on in the near future. Superintendent Milardo explained that the Department is not overseeing the construction of the soccer fields which is the responsibility of Middletown Youth Soccer. The irrigation work is being done, but it doesn't look like it is completed. The contractor said that they were considering putting sod down so that the fields would be ready in time for use in the Fall, however that it has not happened. Chairman Winzer asked the Middletown High School students if they had any questions about what was being discussed and they requested more information about the fields. Director Santostefano, Superintendent Milardo, Chairman Winzer and Commissioner Jaskot explained that they are new fields and explained the project to them.

Motion Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Pessina, seconded by Commissioner Romano, all in favor, passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Christine Bourne

cc: Mayor Daniel Drew